



NHK 詳細分析

2026-05-04_radio_news_1100

Broadcast: 2026-05-04 | Analyzed: 2026-05-13 14:43

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OVERALL SCORE

3.0/10

Slight imbalance

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly biased/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification based on Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

Party	JCP	CDP	DPP	Komeito	LDP	JIP
CHES	1.50	3.50	4.80	5.20	7.00	7.80
Spectrum	<i>Left</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Right</i>

The overall tendency is presented on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favoring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favoring). The calculation is based on the difference in average favoritism of left vs. right parties (grouping per CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

5.8 / 10

Balanced

0 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Thresholds: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not contribute to the overall score.



POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The current government is a coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Komeito. In the House of Representatives election on 27 October 2024, the LDP won 191 seats (a significant reduction) and Komeito won 24 seats, leaving the coalition short of a majority. The main opposition parties are the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP, 148 seats), Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin, 38 seats), the Democratic Party for the People (DPP, 28 seats), the Japanese Communist Party (JCP, 8 seats), and Reiwa Shinsengumi (Reiwa, 9 seats). At the time of this broadcast, Sanae Takaichi is mentioned as Prime Minister, suggesting a change of government following the Shigeru Ishiba administration.

Party	Left-Right Score	Seats	Government/Opposition	Key Policies
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	1.5	8	Opposition	Uphold Article 9, immediate nuclear phase-out, anti-rearmament
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	2.5	1	Opposition	Pacifism, defend constitution, nuclear phase-out
Reiwa Shinsengumi (Reiwa)	2.5	9	Opposition	Abolish consumption tax, anti-rearmament, MMT economics
Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP)	3.5	148	Opposition	Defend constitution, distribution-focused, nuclear phase-out
Komeito	5.0	24	Coalition government	Peace-oriented, social security, restraining the LDP
Democratic Party for the People (DPP)	5.5	28	Centrist	Consumption tax cut, pragmatism
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	7.0	191	Government	Constitutional revision, defence build-up, economic growth
Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin)	7.0	38	Opposition	Deregulation, administrative reform, constitutional revision
Sanseito	9.0	3	Opposition	Ultra-nationalism, right-wing populism

Japan's current major political fault lines are: the divide between those who defend the constitution and those who seek to revise it, particularly regarding Article 9; the divide over energy policy between those who favour restarting nuclear power plants and those who advocate a nuclear phase-out; the direction of security policy regarding increased defence spending; and the balance between correcting economic inequality and prioritising growth. The LDP's failure to maintain a majority in the 2024 House of Representatives election has created a new axis of tension, with the destabilisation of government management and an increase in opposition influence.

Under Broadcasting Act Article 4, NHK is required to maintain political fairness, accuracy in reporting, and the presentation of multifaceted viewpoints. Because the 12 members of NHK's Board of Governors are appointed by the Prime Minister (with the consent of the Diet), criticism that NHK is "pro-government" has persisted since the Abe



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administration. Japan ranked 70th in Reporters Without Borders' Press Freedom Index (2024), and the press club (kisha club) system produces structural bias in access to information.



CHAPTER 1 — PARTISAN POLITICAL BIAS

Scores by Party

Party	Score (-5 to +5)	Broadcast Content vs. Party Platform
LDP	+2	00:08–01:34 "the diplomatic policy that is an evolution of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific announced by Prime Minister Takaichi" — Platform: Indo-Pacific strategy, defence build-up — Policy is reported positively without criticism; high alignment with platform but one-sided presentation
CDP	0	Not mentioned — Platform: defend constitution, prioritise diplomatic solutions — Does not appear in the broadcast at all; nothing to assess
Komeito	0	Not mentioned — Platform: peace-oriented, restraining LDP — Does not appear in the broadcast at all; nothing to assess
Ishin	0	Not mentioned — Platform: constitutional revision, administrative reform — Does not appear in the broadcast at all; nothing to assess
JCP	0	Not mentioned — Platform: defend constitution, anti-rearmament — Does not appear in the broadcast at all; nothing to assess
DPP	0	Not mentioned — Platform: pragmatism, centrist — Does not appear in the broadcast at all; nothing to assess

Party Bias Summary

- Most accurate portrayal: LDP (Score +2) — Policy is reported consistently with its platform, but without critical examination
- Strongest distortion: N/A (other parties are not mentioned at all)
- Average deviation from 0: 0.3
- Conclusion: No instances of actively distorting party policies are confirmed in this broadcast. However, the fact that only the LDP's policy is the subject of reporting and the opposition's positions are completely absent is problematic from the perspective of Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 2 (political fairness). The imbalance in reporting opportunities between parties is the biggest problem, and should be assessed as structural omission rather than distortion of individual party policies.

Overall Tendency on the Left–Right Spectrum

TENDENCY SCORE: -0.8

(Positive = left-leaning, Negative = right-leaning, 0.0 = balanced)

Classification: Right-leaning

Rationale: This broadcast reports the LDP government's foreign policy (FOIP) in a positive frame and completely omits the opposition and counter-opinions. In the SDF logo issue as well, the SDF's response statement is cited in detail while the specific content of the critical side is omitted. These structural characteristics indicate a tendency to treat the government/SDF—a right-leaning political position—in a relatively favourable manner. However, the reason the score remains mild at -0.8 is that approximately 39% of broadcast time consists of politically neutral sports news, and there is an absence of proactive right-wing assertions.



CHAPTER 2 — PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND TOPIC FRAMEWORK

Broadcast Data

- Title: NHK News (11:00 a.m.)
- Date (from filename): Cannot be determined (estimated from context to be around June 2025)
- Broadcast duration (estimated from transcript): Approximately 4 minutes 50 seconds
- Presenter/Reporter: "Masaona" (announcer name, from end of transcript)
- Guests: None (studio read-out format, no interview subjects)

Actors	Role	Party/Affiliation	Political Spectrum
Foreign Minister Motegi	Foreign Minister (mentioned only)	LDP	Right-leaning (7.0)
Prime Minister Takaichi	Prime Minister (mentioned only)	LDP	Right-leaning (7.0)
Player Kazuma Okamoto	Professional baseball player (mentioned only)	Non-political	N/A

Main Topics

This broadcast is a short scheduled news programme consisting of three independent news items: ① Foreign Minister Motegi's visit to Kenya and his Africa policy speech; ② the logo mark controversy involving the JGSDF 1st Infantry Regiment; and ③ the home run record of Major League Baseball player Kazuma Okamoto.

Ideational Context

This broadcast reports the continuation and development of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" policy under the Takaichi administration as diplomatic news, marking a turning point in Japan's diplomatic strategy towards Africa. The Self-Defense Forces logo issue touches on the universal theme of managing the public image of a military organisation and its relationship with civil society. The sports news is highly politically neutral content and may serve a balancing function for the broadcast as a whole. This broadcast is a scheduled news format, aimed at providing breaking news rather than in-depth reporting.

Perspectives Necessary for Balanced Reporting (Independent Assessment Based on General Knowledge)

- * African nations' perspective: how African governments and civil society evaluate the FOIP policy
- * Comparison with China's and Russia's Africa policies: the context of competing diplomatic strategies
- * Assessment of TICAD's track record: the fulfilment status of past commitments and critical evaluation
- * Opposition criticism of foreign policy: the views of CDP, JCP, etc. on Africa policy
- * Legal and institutional background of the SDF logo issue: SDF public affairs regulations and oversight systems
- * International comparison of military organisation symbol usage: logo standards of other nations' militaries
- * Specific opinions of citizens and experts who criticised: the content and basis of the criticism on social media
- * Expert analysis of the organisational culture of the Ministry of Defense/SDF
- * International context of Player Okamoto's record: his standing within MLB as a whole
- * Continuity and differences between the Takaichi administration's FOIP policy and those of previous administrations

Absent Voices

- Africa foreign policy expert (academic): Could have provided an objective assessment of the effectiveness and challenges of the FOIP policy in Africa



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- Opposition MP responsible for foreign affairs (CDP, JCP, etc.): Could have provided a critical perspective on the Takaichi administration's Africa policy
- Local African journalist/researcher: Could have conveyed how Japan's Africa policy is received on the ground
- Ministry of Defense public affairs officer: Could have explained the institutional background of the logo mark issue and measures to prevent recurrence
- Military ethics/civilian control expert: Could have analysed the problems with the SDF's standards for using symbols
- Social media critics/civil society group representatives: Could have articulated the specific grounds for the logo criticism and social concerns
- MLB statistics expert/sports journalist: Could have explained the statistical significance of Player Okamoto's record within MLB as a whole
- Representatives of TICAD participating nations: Could have indicated an assessment of Japan's past Africa support record and expectations for the future



CHAPTER 3 — 15 CRITERIA: DETAILED ANALYSIS

Hard Facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

1. Expert Selection

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This broadcast is in studio read-out format, and no external experts or commentators appear. The following is an analysis of the persons mentioned within the broadcast.

Actors Mentioned 1: Foreign Minister Motegi

Timestamp: 00:03–01:34

Statement: "To maintain and strengthen the international order, it is necessary to strengthen the autonomy and resilience of each nation, and we will provide the necessary support and cooperation in all fields."

Positioning: A serving Foreign Minister affiliated with the LDP. He is a government policymaker and is not a neutral expert.

Absent counter-opinions: Opposition MPs responsible for foreign affairs, independent foreign policy researchers, Africa studies specialists.

Credibility Matrix (Deep Check):

(a) Funding: Minister of a government body operated on the national budget (taxes).

(b) Mandate: An implementer of foreign policy, which is structurally incompatible with neutral assessment.

D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Is in a position to promote a policy he himself formulated

D2 Personal risk: -1 — Policy failure entails political risk, but the content of his statements aligns with his self-interest

D3 Expertise: +1 — Has diplomatic experience, but this is not independent academic expertise

D4 Consistency of opinion: 0 — No comparative data on past statements

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 — Many emotional expressions such as "bright future," with little specific data

D6 Source level: +1 — Is a primary source (directly involved party), but neutrality is low

TOTAL: -2 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow (-4 to +4)

(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE: The Foreign Minister's statements are not presented as neutral expert opinion, but by being reported alone without counter-opinions, de facto authorisation is conferred.

Actors Mentioned 2: 1st Infantry Regiment (Statement)

Timestamp: 02:35–02:58

Statement: "We have received various opinions. Unit logos are created for the purpose of boosting the morale of personnel and enhancing a sense of esprit de corps, however... we have decided to discontinue the use of the logo in question."

Positioning: An official statement from the involved organisation. Not a neutral expert.

Absent counter-opinions: Military ethics specialists, civilian control researchers, citizens and groups who criticised.

Credibility Matrix (Deep Check):

(a) Funding: Ministry of Defense budget (taxes).

(b) Mandate: Is in a position to explain and justify its own organisation's actions, which is incompatible with neutral assessment.

D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Is in a position of defending its own organisation's actions

D2 Personal risk: -1 — A response statement after receiving organisational criticism

D3 Expertise: +1 — Primary information regarding the organisation's internal intentions

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D4 Consistency of opinion: 0 — No comparative data

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: 0 — Matter-of-fact statement

D6 Source level: +1 — Primary source (directly involved party)

TOTAL: -1 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow

(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE: Broadcasting the party's statement without critical analysis downplays the seriousness of the problem.

Absent Expert Groups:

- Africa diplomacy/international relations specialists (academic)
- Military ethics/civilian control specialists
- Opposition politicians (responsible for foreign affairs and defence)

Summary (Matrix results): Foreign Minister Motegi: Yellow (-2); 1st Infantry Regiment: Yellow (-1). Both are directly involved parties and not neutral experts. Independent experts and counter-opinions are completely absent, but the score is set low in consideration of the formal constraints of scheduled news.



2. Source Selection

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Claims without primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Source 1: Foreign Minister Motegi (Official Government Speech)

Timestamp

00:03–01:34 — Statement: "To maintain and strengthen the international order, it is necessary to strengthen the autonomy and resilience of each nation, and we will provide the necessary support and cooperation in all fields."

- (a) **Funding and operating body:** National budget (taxes), LDP-affiliated politician
(b) **Structural conflict of interest:** Is a promoter of policies he himself formulates and implements; neutral assessment is structurally impossible
(c) **Absent sources presenting counter-opinions:** Opposition MPs responsible for foreign affairs, independent foreign policy researchers, Africa studies specialists
Missing counter-sources: Views of opposition foreign policy officers in CDP, JCP, etc.

Source 2: 1st Infantry Regiment Official Statement

Timestamp

02:35–02:58 — Statement: "we have decided to discontinue the use of the logo in question."

- (a) **Funding and operating body:** Ministry of Defense budget (taxes)
(b) **Structural conflict of interest:** Is in a position to explain and justify its own organisation's actions
(c) **Absent sources presenting counter-opinions:** Military ethics specialists, specific statements from citizens and groups who criticised
Missing counter-sources: Civilian control researchers, representative opinions of social media users who criticised

Summary: All sources cited in this broadcast are government/SDF, i.e., the directly involved parties, and independent expert and counter-opinion sources are completely absent. This is problematic from the perspective of the obligation to present multifaceted viewpoints as required by Broadcasting Act Article 4.



3. Time Allocation									3/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Estimated speaking time:

- Diplomatic policy news (government position): Approximately 94 seconds (approximately 33%)
- SDF logo issue (including SDF statement): Approximately 79 seconds (approximately 27%)
- Sports news (politically neutral): Approximately 112 seconds (approximately 39%)
- Presenter (read-out in its entirety): Approximately 290 seconds (100%)

Summary: In political content (diplomacy and defence), only the government/SDF side's position occupies airtime, and zero time is allocated to counter-opinions. Sports news accounting for approximately 39% of broadcast time relatively dilutes the bias in political content.



4. SELECTIVE OMISSION

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Omission 1:

Context

The specific content of the Takaichi administration's FOIP policy and its differences from the previous administration

Relevant Timestamp: 00:08–01:34

Impact

Although the expression "evolved" is used, it is not explained what changed or how, making it impossible for viewers to judge the substance of the policy change.

Omission 2:

Context

The specific content of the SDF logo criticism and the identity of the critics

Relevant Timestamp: 02:22–02:27

Impact

Only the fact that "criticism mounted" is conveyed; the grounds, content, and identity of the critics are completely absent, making it impossible for viewers to understand the essence of the problem.

Omission 3:

Context

The views of opposition parties and civil society on foreign policy

Relevant Timestamp: 00:03–01:34 (diplomatic news as a whole)

Impact

Reporting the government's policy announcement without opposition criticism or alternatives creates the impression that the policy enjoys social consensus.

Summary: The complete absence of opposition views and counter-opinions in diplomatic policy reporting, and the lack of specificity regarding the content of the criticism in the SDF logo issue, are the main omission problems. Even taking into account the formal constraints of scheduled news, this is problematic from the perspective of the obligation to present multifaceted viewpoints under Broadcasting Act Article 4.



5. Manipulation of Numbers

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Complete figures include: absolute value, proportion (%) and trend

Finding 1:

Timestamp 04:13–04:43

Number: "The Japanese players who have hit home runs in three consecutive MLB games are... the 5th"

Missing context Statistical context regarding how frequently and how difficult it is to hit home runs in three consecutive MLB games is absent.

Impact Only comparison within Japanese players is presented, making it difficult to objectively assess the absolute rarity and value of the record.

Summary: The manipulation of numbers is minor, and the lack of context for sports statistics cannot be said to be a serious reporting problem. In diplomatic and defence news, there are no numbers or statistics cited at all, limiting what can be assessed.



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6. Guilt by Association

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No technique of discrediting specific persons or positions through association with negative groups was identified in this broadcast.

Summary: In the short scheduled news format of this broadcast, the technique of guilt by association is not used.



7. Timing

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Finding 1:

Position: 00:00–01:34 (beginning, most prominent position)

Content: "the diplomatic policy that is an evolution of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific announced by Prime Minister Takaichi"

Timing effect: Placing the government's diplomatic policy announcement at the beginning of the broadcast positions it as the most important news, setting the viewer's cognitive priority.

Finding 2:

Position: 02:59–04:50 (end, easily memorable position)

Content: Player Okamoto's home run record

Timing effect: Placing politically neutral and emotionally positive sports news at the end means the overall impression of the broadcast concludes on a bright note, potentially relaxing critical thinking about the political content in the first half.

Summary: The structure of placing the government's diplomatic policy announcement at the beginning and emotionally positive sports news at the end may function as impression management for the broadcast as a whole. However, it is difficult to distinguish this from the standard structure of scheduled news (ordered by importance → closing with a lighter topic), so the score is kept at a moderate level.



8. Selective Outrage

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Outrage = bias. Selective outrage amplifies the finding. Score = outrage level (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Methodological Principle (v2.2): Record the triggering event before each assessment. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if an equivalent trigger did not produce a similar reaction from another position.

Finding 1:

Timestamp

02:22–02:27

Triggering event: Social media criticism of the SDF logo mark

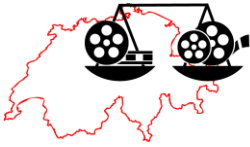
Reaction: Neutral factual reporting stating "criticism mounted"

Comparison

In the diplomatic policy news, no reaction whatsoever to criticism of government policy is mentioned (00:03–01:34)

Asymmetry: Partially verifiable — Criticism of the SDF logo was mentioned, but criticism of foreign policy was not. However, this is more appropriately classified as a problem of selective omission (Criterion 4) rather than selective outrage.

Summary: This broadcast is in studio read-out format and the presenter's emotional reactions are structurally non-existent, making the subject for evaluating selective outrage limited. An asymmetry in the mention of criticism exists between foreign policy and the SDF issue, but this should primarily be assessed as a problem of omission.



9. COMPLETENESS

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Share of covered perspectives

Inverted: original value measures coverage (higher = better). Shown as deviation (higher = larger gaps).

[A] African nations' perspective — OMITTED

Timestamp: N/A

Quotation: None

Assessment: No mention whatsoever was made of Africa's reaction or evaluation; the story was reported as a one-sided announcement of Japanese policy.

[B] Comparison with competing diplomatic strategies — OMITTED

Timestamp: N/A

Quotation: None

Assessment: The comparative context of China's and Russia's Africa policies is completely absent, leaving the relative positioning of the FOIP policy unclear.

[C] Assessment of TICAD's track record — OMITTED

Timestamp: N/A

Quotation: None

Assessment: There is a reference to TICAD (01:25), but no mention whatsoever of the fulfilment status of past commitments or critical evaluations.

[D] Opposition criticism of foreign policy — OMITTED

Timestamp: N/A

Quotation: None

Assessment: Only the ruling government's policy announcement was reported; the opposition's views are completely absent.

[E] Legal and institutional background of the SDF logo issue — PARTIALLY MENTIONED

Timestamp: 02:35–02:58

Quotation: "Unit logos are created for the purpose of boosting the morale of personnel and enhancing a sense of esprit de corps, however..."

Assessment: The SDF's explanation was quoted, but there is no reference to the legal basis or oversight system.

[F] International comparison of military organisation symbol usage — OMITTED

Timestamp: N/A

Quotation: None

Assessment: The perspective of international comparison is completely absent.

[G] Specific opinions of citizens and experts who criticised — PARTIALLY MENTIONED

Timestamp: 02:22–02:27

Quotation: "Criticism mounted that the logo was unbecoming of the Self-Defense Forces, among other concerns."

Assessment: The existence of criticism was mentioned, but the specific content, basis, and identities of the critics are completely absent.

[H] Expert analysis of Ministry of Defense/SDF organisational culture — OMITTED

Timestamp: N/A

Quotation: None

Assessment: Expert analysis is completely absent.

[I] International context of Player Okamoto's record — PARTIALLY MENTIONED

Timestamp: 04:13–04:43

Quotation: "The Japanese players who have hit home runs in three consecutive MLB games include Hideki Matsui..."



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Assessment: Comparison is made within Japanese players only; no statistical positioning within MLB as a whole is presented.

[J] Continuity and differences between the Takaichi administration's FOIP policy and previous administrations — OMITTED

Timestamp: N/A

Quotation: None

Assessment: The expression "evolved" is used (00:15), but the specific content of the policy changes is not explained.



Soft Facts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. Framing

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Finding 1:

Timestamp 00:08–00:21

Quotation: "Under the diplomatic policy, which is an evolution of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific announced by Prime Minister Takaichi, the Minister indicated Japan's intention to pursue the realisation of peace on the African continent and a virtuous cycle of growth."

Manipulation

The government's foreign policy is presented in a positive frame of "peace," "growth," and "virtuous cycle," excluding critical perspectives.

Why it is problematic: Viewers may receive the government's foreign policy as something universally positive, making the policy's problems and competing interests invisible.

Finding 2:

Timestamp 02:22–02:27

Quotation: "Criticism mounted that the logo was unbecoming of the Self-Defense Forces, among other concerns."

Manipulation

The criticism is framed as an aesthetic/formal problem of being "unbecoming," avoiding a framing of the issue as a cultural or organisational problem within a military organisation.

Why it is problematic: The essence of the problem (the use of violent symbols in a military organisation and its organisational culture) is downplayed and treated merely as an "image problem."

Finding 3:

Timestamp 00:43–01:03

Quotation: "To maintain and strengthen the international order, it is necessary to strengthen the autonomy and resilience of each nation, and we will provide the necessary support and cooperation in all fields."

Manipulation

Japan's foreign policy is framed as a universal value of "maintaining the international order," concealing the aspect of pursuing specific geopolitical interests.

Why it is problematic: Japan's foreign policy is presented as neutral and universal, and the context of geopolitical competition with China and Russia is completely excluded.

Summary: Diplomatic policy news presents the government's position one-sidedly in a positive frame, while the SDF logo issue is handled with a frame that downplays the seriousness of the problem. Even taking into account the formal constraints of scheduled news, the framing bias is problematic from the perspective of the obligation to present multifaceted viewpoints under Broadcasting Act Article 4.



11. Word Choice and Terminology

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Finding 1:

Timestamp 00:15–00:16

Quotation: "a diplomatic policy that is an evolution of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific"

Manipulation

The expression "evolution" implies improvement and development of the policy, automatically conferring continuity and legitimacy from the previous administration.

Why it is problematic: Neutral alternative expressions would be "changed" or "modified"; "evolution" is an affirmative term containing a value judgement.

Finding 2:

Timestamp 01:10–01:17

Quotation: "He emphasised the desire to pass on a bright future to young people and to grow strong and prosperous together."

Manipulation

Emotionally and positively charged expressions such as "bright future" and "grow strong and prosperous" are quoted from the government spokesperson without critical scrutiny.

Why it is problematic: Presenting political slogans with the same treatment as factual reporting may prevent viewers from making critical judgements.

Finding 3:

Timestamp 02:35–02:42

Quotation: "Unit logos are created for the purpose of boosting the morale of personnel and enhancing a sense of esprit de corps, however..."

Manipulation

The expression "esprit de corps" is a quotation from an official SDF statement, but there is no commentary on the meaning or appropriateness of this term.

Why it is problematic: The unusual expression "esprit de corps" is broadcast without critical scrutiny, and the context that would allow viewers to make an appropriate judgement about the SDF's organisational culture is absent.

Summary: Government positive slogans are quoted without critical scrutiny in diplomatic policy reporting, and the language choices function to reinforce the government's position. However, the score is kept at a moderate level in consideration of the formal constraints of scheduled news and the absence of obviously pejorative terminology.



12. Presenter Behaviour

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Methodological Principle (v2.2): Record the triggering event before each assessment. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetric if a similar trigger did not produce a similar intervention with another guest.

Finding 1:

Timestamp 00:00–04:50 (entire broadcast)

Triggering event: This broadcast is in studio read-out format, and there is no dialogue between presenter and guests.

Quotation (presenter): "This is NHK News at 11 o'clock." (00:00)

Comparison

Since there are no guests in a dialogue format, there are no comparable cases to assess for asymmetry.

Asymmetry: Not verifiable — This broadcast is a one-way read-out format, and presenter interventions, questions, and interruptions are structurally non-existent.

Summary: This broadcast is in studio read-out format, and since there is no dialogue between presenter and guests, there is no subject for evaluating asymmetry in presenter behaviour. The score of 1 is a minimal reservation accounting for the possibility of subtle differences in the selection and emphasis of read-out content.



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13. Question Asymmetry

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This broadcast is in studio read-out format, and no interviews or question-and-answer exchanges exist. There is no subject for evaluating question asymmetry.

Summary: Due to the format of this broadcast, question asymmetry cannot be assessed. A score of 0 indicates not the absence of asymmetry, but the absence of anything to assess.



14. False Balance									2/10
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Finding 1:

Timestamp

02:22–02:58

Composition: "Criticism mounted" (critical side) → "we have decided to discontinue use" (SDF side)

Analysis

By citing the SDF's response statement in detail without presenting the specific content of the criticism, a surface appearance of balance—"criticism exists → response exists"—is produced, but in reality, the SDF's position is reported in overwhelmingly greater detail.

Summary: False balance is minor, and the main problem in this broadcast is not the feigning of balance but the complete absence of counter-opinions (omission).



15. Agenda Setting

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Finding 1:

Agenda element set: It is established as a self-evident premise that the Takaichi administration's FOIP policy is an "evolution" and the legitimate direction of Africa policy.

Timestamp

00:08–00:21 — Basis: "Under the diplomatic policy, which is an evolution of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific announced by Prime Minister Takaichi, the Minister indicated Japan's intention to pursue the realisation of peace on the African continent and a virtuous cycle of growth."

Alternative agenda: The problems with the FOIP policy, its relationship with the autonomy and sovereignty of African nations, comparison with China's Africa policy.

Finding 2:

Agenda element set: The SDF logo issue is framed as a resolved problem of "social media criticism → discontinuation of use," removing ongoing critical monitoring of organisational problems from the agenda.

Timestamp

02:22–02:58 — Basis: "Following the mounting criticism, the use was discontinued." (past tense/completed form)

Alternative agenda: The organisational culture of the SDF, the effectiveness of civilian control, institutional guarantees for measures to prevent recurrence.

Summary: The government's foreign policy is set—without critical examination—as the "legitimate direction," and the SDF issue is processed as "resolved," thereby removing ongoing monitoring and criticism from the agenda. This is problematic from the perspective of the obligation to present multifaceted viewpoints under Broadcasting Act Article 4.



CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL EVALUATION

OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual Scores — All 15 Criteria

No.	Criterion	Score	Rating
1	Expert Selection	2/10	Unremarkable
2	Source Selection	5/10	Significant imbalance
3	Time Allocation	3/10	Slight imbalance
4	SELECTIVE OMISSION	6/10	Significant imbalance
5	Manipulation of Numbers	1/10	Unremarkable
6	Guilt by Association	0/10	Unremarkable
7	Timing	3/10	Slight imbalance
8	Selective Outrage	1/10	Unremarkable
9	COMPLETENESS	7/10	Pronounced imbalance
10	Framing	4/10	Slight imbalance
11	Word Choice and Terminology	3/10	Slight imbalance
12	Presenter Behaviour	1/10	Unremarkable
13	Question Asymmetry	0/10	Unremarkable
14	False Balance	2/10	Unremarkable
15	Agenda Setting	5/10	Significant imbalance

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

3.1/10

Slight imbalance

SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

2.8/10

Slight imbalance

OVERALL SCORE

3.0/10

Slight imbalance

Average of Hardfacts and Softfacts



KEY — Score Definitions

Individual Scores per Criterion (0–10)

0	No finding	No relevant anomaly detected.
1–2	Weak finding	Minor anomaly without substantial impact on balance.
3–4	Slight to moderate finding	Recognizable tendency; low to moderate impact relevance.
5	Moderate finding with impact	Relevant imbalance affecting the audience's opinion-forming potential.
6	Significant finding (threshold)	Scores of 6 and above are classified as 'significant findings.'
7	Significant finding	Clear, well-documented imbalance with distinct impact relevance.
8–9	Severe finding	Pronounced imbalance; multiple documented individual findings in this criterion.
10	Maximum severity	Systematic, pervasive imbalance in this criterion.

Aggregated Deviation Index — Interpretation Ranges

0.0 – 2.5	Unremarkable	No significant patterns detected; broadcast meets the impartiality standard.
2.6 – 4.0	Slight imbalance	Isolated anomalies; statistically visible but within tolerance range.
4.1 – 6.0	Significant imbalance	Multiple significant findings; relevant impairment of perspective diversity.
6.1 – 8.0	Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation	Pronounced, cross-broadcast patterns; high impact relevance.
8.1 – 10	Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high bias degree	Maximum severity across nearly all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting.

Party-Political Bias (-5 to +5)

-5 to -3	Strongly disadvantaged	Party is significantly underrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.
-2 to -1	Slightly disadvantaged	Recognizable but minor disadvantage.
0	Neutral	No detectable favoritism or disadvantage.
+1 to +2	Slightly favored	Recognizable but minor favoritism.
+3 to +5	Strongly favored	Party is significantly overrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.



CHAPTER 5 — LEGAL ASSESSMENT (BROADCASTING ACT ARTICLE 4)

Assessment Based on Broadcasting Act Article 4

Broadcasting Act Article 4 requires political fairness, accuracy in reporting, and the presentation of multifaceted viewpoints.

Violation 1:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 2 (political fairness)

Fact: In diplomatic policy reporting, only the government's (LDP's) position is reported, with the opposition's views completely absent.

Basis: Timestamp 00:03–01:34 — Quotation: "Under the diplomatic policy, which is an evolution of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific announced by Prime Minister Takaichi, the Minister indicated Japan's intention to pursue the realisation of peace on the African continent and a virtuous cycle of growth."

Assessment: Reporting the government's diplomatic policy announcement without opposition criticism or alternatives is problematic from the perspective of political fairness. However, given the formal constraint of a short scheduled news programme, there are limits to assessing this as a single news item.

Violation 2:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 4 (presentation of multifaceted viewpoints)

Fact: In the SDF logo issue, the specific content and basis of the criticism are not presented, and only the SDF's response statement is cited in detail.

Basis: Timestamp 02:22–02:58 — Quotation: "Following the mounting criticism, the use was discontinued." → "we have decided to discontinue the use of the logo in question."

Assessment: Reporting only the party's response statement in detail without the critical side's viewpoints being specifically presented is insufficient from the perspective of presenting multifaceted viewpoints.

Overall Assessment under Broadcasting Act Article 4

This broadcast is a short scheduled news format, and there are formal constraints on fully realising the presentation of multifaceted viewpoints required by Broadcasting Act Article 4 within a single broadcast. However, the complete absence of opposition opinion in diplomatic policy reporting, and the lack of specificity regarding the content of the criticism in the SDF issue, are problematic in light of the spirit of Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 2 (political fairness) and Paragraph 4 (presentation of multifaceted viewpoints). The fact that all sources are limited to the government and SDF as directly involved parties does not satisfy the requirement of the same Act to "clarify viewpoints from as many angles as possible." Even taking the formal constraints of scheduled news into full consideration, the fact that references to opposition views and counter-opinions are zero is a matter warranting improvement, and if assessed as a continuing broadcast pattern, there is a possibility of a finding of violation of Broadcasting Act Article 4.

Deep Source Check (Covering All Expert Bodies, NGOs, and Advisory Bodies Cited)

The organisations and bodies cited in this broadcast are as follows.

1. Foreign Minister Motegi (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

- 1. Funding:** National budget (taxes). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a government body and a policy-implementing organ of the LDP government.
- 2. Mandate:** Formulates and implements foreign policy; structurally incompatible with neutral assessment.
- 3. Conflict of interest:** As a promoter of policies he himself formulated, he has an institutional interest in positive evaluation of the policy.



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4. Credibility Matrix (6 dimensions): D1 Conflict of interest: -2 / D2 Personal risk: -1 / D3 Expertise: +1 / D4 Consistency of opinion: 0 / D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 / D6 Source level: +1 → Total: -2 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow

5. Counter-opinions: The views of opposition MPs responsible for foreign affairs (CDP, JCP, etc.), independent foreign policy researchers, and Africa studies specialists are absent.

2. JGSDF 1st Infantry Regiment (Official Statement)

1. Funding: Ministry of Defense budget (taxes). The SDF is a government body under the command of the Ministry of Defense.

2. Mandate: Is in a position to explain and justify its own organisation's actions; incompatible with neutral assessment.

3. Conflict of interest: This is a response statement issued after receiving organisational criticism; the organisation has an institutional interest in maintaining its own legitimacy.

4. Credibility Matrix (6 dimensions): D1 Conflict of interest: -2 / D2 Personal risk: -1 / D3 Expertise: +1 / D4 Consistency of opinion: 0 / D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: 0 / D6 Source level: +1 → Total: -1 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow

5. Counter-opinions: Military ethics specialists, civilian control researchers, and representative opinions of social media users who criticised are absent.

Important Note: "Official statements" and "government announcements" are not neutral determinations of fact. These are information outputs from the position of directly involved parties, and the multifaceted presentation of viewpoints required by Broadcasting Act Article 4 is only realised when they are juxtaposed with verification by independent experts and counter-opinions. The fact that this juxtaposition is not carried out in this broadcast is the core of the structural problem.

Analysis complete — NHK News (11:00 a.m.) Broadcasting Act Article 4 Compliance Detailed Analysis Report

Version: 2.7-detail / Methodological principles K5+K13 applied

Legal and Methodological Notes

No factual determination

The results presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams, or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardized operationalization, not a finding of individual responsibility.

No legal judgment

The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment under 放送法 第4条. The determination of whether a specific broadcast violates legal requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular 総務省).

No proof of causation

Statistical correlations are not to be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intent. Deviation values may be influenced by topic selection, news environment, political controversy, or format logic.

No judgment of intent

The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means a significant imbalance was detected — not that the editorial team intended it. The methodology makes no claims about motives or strategic objectives.

Heuristic comparison tool

The index serves comparative pattern recognition across thousands of broadcasts, not precise metric measurement of individual segments. Threshold values serve heuristic orientation, not sharp legal qualification.



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APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL BROADCASTING LAW

Legal Basis Japan — NHK

Legislation

- Broadcasting Act (放送法, Act No. 132 of 1950, last amended 2024)
- NHK Reception Agreement (NHK受信規約)
- Radio Act (電波法)

Broadcasting Act Article 4 (Editing Standards)

Original text (Japanese):

放送事業者は、国内放送及び内外放送の放送番組の編集に当たっては、次の各号の定めるところによらなければならない。

- 一 公安及び善良な風俗を害しないこと。
- 二 政治的に公平であること。
- 三 報道は事実をまげないですること。
- 四 意見が対立している問題については、できるだけ多くの角度から論点を明らかにすること。

Official English translation:

(1) A broadcaster must comply with the following when editing domestic broadcast programs:

- (i) It must not negatively influence public safety or good morals.
- (ii) It must be politically fair.
- (iii) Reporting must not distort the facts.
- (iv) It must clarify the points at issue from as many angles as possible where there are conflicting opinions concerning an issue.

Ref: e-Gov (laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/325AC0000000132), Japanese Law Translation DB

Four Pillars of Bias Analysis

No.	Provision	SVFAB Analysis Reference
1	Must not harm public safety or good morals	Editorial baseline
2	Must be politically fair	Core bias metric — analogous to Swiss RTVG Art. 4
3	Reporting must not distort the facts	Factual dimension
4	Controversial issues: as many angles as possible	Multi-perspective / balance

Comparison Switzerland — Japan

Aspect	Switzerland (SRG)	Japan (NHK)
Law	RTVG Art. 4	Broadcasting Act Art. 4
Independent regulator	UBI (binding)	BPO (non-binding)



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State regulator	BAKOM/UVEK	MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
Enforcement	UBI can uphold complaints; BAKOM can sanction	BPO recommends; MIC can issue administrative guidance
Funding	Serafe fee	NHK reception fee (~1,100 JPY/month)
Self-regulation	Moderate (UBI independent)	Weak (BPO co-funded by NHK)

Regulatory Authorities

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (総務省)

- Government ministry with jurisdiction over broadcasting
- Issues broadcast licences
- Can issue administrative guidance (行政指導)
- Approves NHK budget, business plan, and reception fees
- Theoretically has authority to revoke licences
- Recent action: September 2024, administrative guidance after Senkaku incident on NHK Radio International

BPO (Broadcasting Ethics and Program Improvement Organization)

- Founded 2003, non-governmental, self-regulatory
- Jointly operated by NHK and JBA (Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association)
- Three committees: Ethics Verification, Human Rights, Youth Protection
- Decisions are NOT legally binding — rely on voluntary compliance
- NHK co-funds BPO — structural independence compromised

Key BPO Decisions Regarding NHK

Year	Case	Ruling
2015	Close-up Gendai — staging allegations	Serious breach of broadcasting ethics
2022	BS Olympic Documentary (Naomi Kawase)	Serious breach — false subtitles
2023	News Watch 9 — COVID-19 reporting	Breach — vaccine families misrepresented

International Reference

- RSF Press Freedom Index: Japan 2024 Rank 70 (far behind CH: 9, NO: 1)
- Freedom House: Japan classified as "free", but media freedom under pressure (kisha clubs, government proximity)

Structural Background

NHK is the world's largest public broadcaster by budget (~720 billion JPY / ~4.5 billion EUR). Formal independence is structurally limited through the Board of Governors (12 members appointed by the Prime Minister with parliamentary consent). The kisha club system restricts access to government information to accredited media and fosters proximity between journalists and government.



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

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Unbalanced Reporting is the response to the halving initiative in Switzerland: Manipulation techniques are explained in detail, starting with the selection of staff and sources. Then 15 principles are explained: omission, framing, temporal framing, guilt by association, emotionalisation, context removal and many more, illustrated with numerous examples. Additionally, it becomes apparent where we ourselves apply these techniques – fostering not only awareness but also empathy.

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Because whoever understands framing sees the world more clearly. Hears news differently. Conducts conversations more confidently. And no longer so easily accepts a frame chosen by someone else.



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